

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1949.

-----O-----

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL.

Council Offices, Salcombe, South Devon.

Telephone: Salcombe 208.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge,
South Devon.

CLERK TO M. O. H.

Miss Eccles.

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2004.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices, Salcombe,
South Devon.

Telephone: Salcombe 63.

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S
REPORT

for the YEAR ending DEC. 31st, 1949.

Medical Officer of Health: DR.W.C.SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: DR.R.H.DUMMETT, M.B., Ch.B.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: MR.R.LUSHER, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. RICHMOND AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

The health in the District has continued to be satisfactory.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) - 1,181.

Population - The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population - 2,454.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to the Rate Books - 876.

Rateable Value - £23,154.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £92.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births - Male 18. Female 21. Total 39.
Live (legitimate) - Male 18. Female 21. Total 39.
Live (illegitimate) - Male 0. Female 0. Total NIL.

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated population 15.89.

STILL BIRTHS - 1. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 25.00.

DEATHS - 36 Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident

population - 14.67.

Deaths (from Puerperal Causes) - NIL.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - 3.

DEATH RATE:- All Infants per 1,000 Live Births - 76.9.

Legitimate Live Births - 3.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - NIL.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - 1.

Deaths from Syphilitic Diseases - NIL.

Deaths from Influenza (all ages) - 1.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - 1.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 10.

Deaths from Intra-Cranial Vascular lesions - 4.

Deaths from Heart Disease - 11.

Deaths from other Diseases of the Circulatory System - 2.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) - NIL.

Deaths from other Digestive Diseases - NIL.

Deaths from Respiratory Diseases - 1.

Deaths from Diabetes - 1.

Deaths from Nephritis - 2.

Deaths from Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries,

Infant Disorders - 1.

Deaths from other violent causes - 1.

The conditions of occupation and of environment have not had a prejudicial influence on the general health or mortality. Salcombe is well-known as a holiday resort and yachting centre. During the summer months - June to September - the population is practically doubled by the influx of visitors.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA. The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Plympton Rural and Kingsbridge Rural and Urban Districts, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority and the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Public Health Laboratory Service provide a service for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs etc. I am grateful for their assistance and willing co-operation at all times.

PROVISION OF ANTI-TOXIN.

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is available, free of cost, through the general practitioner service and stocks are kept at local hospitals.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding districts:-

Men's Ward	...	6 Beds.
Women's Ward	...	6 Beds.
Children's Cots	...	2
Private Wards	...	2 (1 bed each).

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Cases of infectious disease are sent to the Swilly Isolation Hospital. Patients are removed by the Plymouth Ambulance Service on behalf of the Devon County Council.

MIDWIVES.

The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. There is one practising midwife in the District.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

There is a centre in Salcombe which is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month.

VENEREAL DISEASE TREATMENT.

At the Venereal Disease Department, City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the County Council and Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner in Modbury and another at Kingsbridge.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Association for Orthopaedics as in-patients at Exeter and Plymouth. For out-patients there is a clinic at Kingsbridge and the South West Clinic which deals with this District as well is held at the Mutley Hall Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

NON-INFECTIOUS CASES AND ACCIDENTS.

The Devon County Council Ambulance Service provide transport for non-infectious cases and accidents.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1949.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>
Measles.	86.
Whooping Cough.	60
Scarlet Fever.	4
	<u>150</u>

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949.

	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 - 10 years.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 20 years.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 70 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
70 and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

(i) The source of water for the district is at South Brent, and is supplied in bulk by the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board, being satisfactory in quality and quantity; (ii) 13 samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows:-

Ministry of Health Classification for Piped Supplies.

<u>Class 1.</u>	<u>Class 2.</u>	<u>Class 3.</u>	<u>Total</u>
8	1	4	13

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A new sewerage scheme was commenced and consists generally of replacing the existing sewers which were defective and of insufficient capacity with a new 18" sewer from the top of Allenhayes Road to the outfall at Chapel End. This should prevent any future flooding of properties in this area.

When this work is completed, the drainage arrangements for the inland part of the district should, with the exception of a few small sections, be satisfactory. The outfall system still remains unsatisfactory, and as soon as financial considerations will permit, the Council will no doubt consider improving the present outfalls.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection of refuse in all parts of the district has been carried out. The proposed embankment wall around the refuse tip has not been commenced.

The refuse is tipped in a tidal creek and the nuisance and disfigurement caused by this material being deposited on the beaches is considerable. It is my opinion that this work should proceed as quickly as possible.

HOUSING.

18 permanent houses were completed during the year and a further 5 houses were in course of erection. Of the houses completed, 13 were three bedroom type and 5 were two bedroom type.

FOOD SUPPLIES.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

12 lb imported beef, 6 lb corned beef, 4 lb brisket beef, 60 lb oranges, 2 lb cheese, 9 lb fat, 23 tins miscellaneous articles (milk, fruit, vegetables etc).

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There are 8 dairy farms in the district and these, together with dairies, were regularly inspected.

BAKEHOUSES.

The 4 bakehouses were inspected regularly and were kept in a satisfactory condition.

ICE CREAM.

18 samples of ice cream were taken from retailers in the district and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination. All the results were satisfactory.

SCHOOLS.

There are three schools in the district. The sanitary accommodation at two of the schools is still very poor.

During the year, 13 notices were received referring to 48 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts.

They were as follows:-

Whooping Cough 7, Measles 33, Scabies 1, Chicken-Pox 4, Scarlet Fever 3.

DISINFECTION.

Routine disinfection has been carried out after all notified cases of infectious disease.

NUISANCES.

7 complaints were received, all of which were dealt with by informal action.

CAMPING SITES.

A count was taken on the 2nd August, 1949, of the caravans and tents in the district and the result was as follows:-

Beadon Road.

O.S.Field No.222.	9 tents.
O.S.Field No.222.	2 caravans.

Hangor Mill.

O.S.Field No.347.	3 tents.
O.S.Field No.355.	18 tents.
O.S.Field No.354.	18 tents.
O.S.Field No.363.	9 tents.

Moult Hill.

O.S.Field No.369.	13 tents.
O.S.Field No.400.	18 tents.
O.S.Field No.400.	1 caravan.
O.S.Field No.401.	6 tents.

Southern Mill.

O.S.Field No.441.

3 tents.

O.S.Field No.441.

1 caravan.

TOTAL: 97 tents and 4 caravans.

Most of the tents in the fields at Hanger Mill and Moulton Hill were erected by schools whose pupils were spending their holidays in the district and also by the Boy Scout Organisation. The facilities for water supply and sanitation in these camps were well organised.

The remainder of the tents and caravans were placed by individual groups of holiday makers and although provision for water supply and sanitary conveniences in these cases was more of a primitive nature, no condition of nuisance or gross pollution was found.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

W.C.SMALES,

JULY, 1950.

Medical Officer of Health.

